

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, IR

SUBJ: CODEL GILMAN'S VISIT TEHRAN

1. SUMMARY: CONGRESSMAN GILMAN'S VISIT TO TEHRAN WAS BRIEF BUT BUSY AND WE BELIEVE SUCCESSFUL. MAIN POINT ARISING OUT OF VISIT WAS CODEL'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT US OIL COMPANIES IN CONSORTIUM WERE NOT SHIPPING THEIR OIL FROM QUOTE FRIENDLY IRAN END QUOTE TO US, THEREBY HELPING TO MINIMIZE US DEPENDENCE ON ARABIAN OIL.

2. CONGRESSMAN GILMAN HAD ONE FULL AND WHAT HE SAID WAS PRODUCTIVE DAY (AUG 15) IN TEHRAN. IN MORNING HE MET WITH DR MINA OF NIOC, DR GHAFARZADEH OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, MFA POL UNDER SECRETARY FARTASH AND MINISTER OF HEALTH SHAGHOLI. IN AFTERNOON HE HAD THREE-HOUR SESSION WITH COUNTRY TEAM FOLLOWED BY DINNER GIVEN BY CHARGE TO MEET PROMINENT IRANIAN OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN.

3. IN MEETING WITH DR MINA, CODEL ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON PRODUCTION AND EXPORT FIGURES AND SHOWED SPECIAL INTEREST IN AMOUNT OF IRANIAN OIL GOING TO US. DR MINA FIRST TOOK LINE QUOTE WE SELL TO COMPANIES, THEY DECIDE WHERE TO SHIP END QUOTE, THEN OBTAINED AND GAVE TO CODEL FIGURE OF 4.3 PER CENT IRANIAN 1972 EXPORTS WENT TO US. GUESSTIMATED PERHAPS 14-15 PER CENT WILL GO TO US AFTER FIVE YEARS, DUE PLANNED JOINT VENTURES WITH US COMPANIES FOR EXPORT REFINERY IN IRAN AND REFINING AND DISTRIBUTION IN US. IN THIS MEETING CODEL ALSO ASKED ABOUT ARAB USE OF OIL AS
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POLITICAL WEAPON. DR MINA SAID THIS POLITICAL QUESTION OUTSIDE HIS

FIELD BUT NOTED SAUDIS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE.

4. AFTER MEETING CODEL QUIZZED EMBOFF ON QUOTE WHY WE NOT GETTING FAIR SHARE OF IRANIAN OIL. END QUOTE. BROUGHT UP QUESTION AGAIN IN EMBASSY BRIEFING, AT WHICH TIME IT BECAME CLEAR CODEL HAS STRONG FEELING THAT US OIL COMPANIES, BY SHIPPING MOST OIL FROM QUOTE FRIENDLY IRAN END QUOTE TO EUROPE AND JAPAN, ARE NOT MAKING SUITABLE EFFORT MINIMIZE US DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL. HE INDICATED HE WOULD URGE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO RAISE QUESTION WITH OIL COMPANIES. CODEL TALKED TO DR MEHDI GHAFARZADE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CAPITAL GOODS RESEARCH. CODEL ASKED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS ON GOI TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICIES, AS WELL AS ON LABOR, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND SOCIAL WELFARE. DR GHAFARZADE DECLARED GOI NOT SATISFIED WITH AMOUNT OF US INVESTMENT, DESIRES ATTRACT MORE.

6. AT MEETING IN MFA, FARTASH GAVE CODEL GENERAL BRIEFING ALONG FAMILIAR LINES REGARDING IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH GULF STATES, ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL, PAKISTAN AND USSR. CODEL MET WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH SHAGHOLI FOR DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS MATTERS. DURING MEETING CODEL WAS DISABUSED OF NOTION THAT IRAN IN ANY WAY CONTRIBUTED TO ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC ENTERING US AND HEARD OUT SHAGHOLI'S PRESENTATION ON IRAN'S ENFORCEMENT AND REHABILITATION MEASURES. SHAGHOLI STRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT IRAN WAS BRINGING ITS DOMESTIC NARCOTICS PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL BY ITS POLICY OF REGISTERING ADDICTS AND PROVIDING THEM WITH OPIUM DOSES THROUGH LEGITIMATE CHANNELS. CODEL WISHED SHAGHOLI WELL BUT EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT THIS WAS ANSWER TO ADDICTION PROBLEM.

7. IN EMBASSY BRIEFING CODEL SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN DESCRIPTION OF SHAH'S PERCEPTION OF IRAN'S STRATEGIC PROBLEMS AND MILITARY NEEDS, AND IN NARCOTICS. APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO SHAH'S CONCERNS ABOUT THREAT TO IRAN AND NEED FOR MILITARY BUILDUP TO COUNTER IT. ON NARCOTICS, AFTER RECONFIRMING THAT IRAN IS NOT CONTRIBUTOR TO US PROBLEM HE TURNED QUESTIONING TO SITUATION IN GULF AND RECEIVED DETAILED BRIEFING FROM DEA REP WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED SURVEY OF GULF. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY POTENTIAL OF GULF FOR DRUG TRAFFIC TO WESTERN MARKET AND MAY PURSUE ISSUE.

HELMS

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